

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 10, 13, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 10 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobelt. Claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action and to included all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Drawings

It is noted that no Patent Drawing Review (Form PTO-948) was received with the outstanding Office Action. Thus, Applicant must assume that the drawings are acceptable as filed.

Claim Amendments

By this Amendment, Applicant has canceled claim 13 and amended claims 10-12 and 14-20 of this application. It is believed that the amended claims specifically set forth each element of Applicant's invention in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The Examiner has indicted that claim 13 would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. Applicant's amended claim 10 comprises a combination of original claims 10 and 13, thus redrafting claim 13 in independent form. Amended withdrawn claims 11-12 and 14-19, and amended claim 20 all depend from amended claim 10. Since amended claim 10 is generic to withdrawn claims 11-12 and 14-19, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of these claims.

In the absence of any art cited against Applicant's original claim 13, it is not believed that any detailed discussion of the cited prior art references is necessary. Suffice to say that all of the claims remaining in this patent application contain subject matter against which no prior art citations have been made.

Application No. 10/617,374

Summary

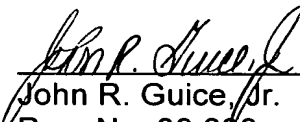
In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner not be of the opinion that this case is in condition for allowance, it is requested that this amendment be entered for the purposes of appeal.

Should any points remain in issue, which the Examiner feels could best be resolved by either a personal or a telephone interview, it is urged that Applicant's local attorney be contacted at the exchange listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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